

REMARKS

Claims 3-30 are pending. Claims 22-30 are allowed.

The Office Action indicates that claims 5 to 10, 14, 15, 17 and 18 would be allowable if presented in independent form. Claim 5 has been placed in independent form, incorporating the features of claims 3 and 4. Claims 6 to 11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 5 and are therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance. Claim 14 has been presented in independent form and is therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance. Claim 15, as amended, depends from claim 14 and is therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 recites “each strip having a first end extending into a first pocket at a first end of the surface and a second end extending into a second pocket at a second end of the surface”. The Office Action indicates that this feature is provided by Stenberg et al. at col. 3, second paragraph. The applicant submits that this cannot be correct.

The cited paragraph of Stenberg et al. describes that ribs (14) extend to and are joined to a face (15) of a flange or shoulder (17). Cells between the ribs extend continuously from end to end of the roll between flanges (17). In Figure 3 it can be seen that the top edges of ribs (14) are flush with the top of flange (17). The Stenberg et al. drum does not provide pockets that the ends of ribs (14) extend into. If one removed ribs (14) from the Stenberg et al. drum one would simply have a cylindrical drum surface penetrated by holes (10) with flanges (17) at either end.

Applicant submits that Stenberg et al. fails to disclose the structure of claim 3 and that claim 3 and claims 4, 12, 13 and 16-21 that depend from claim 3 are therefore patentable over Stenberg et al. The dependent claims further distinguish Stenberg et al. at least as set out below.

Claim 4 recites “each of the strips has an inward-facing portion, which bears against the drum, and an outward-facing portion and the inward facing portion is narrower than the outward facing portion.” The Applicant submits that Stenberg et al. does not disclose this feature. Figure 3 of Stenberg et al. shows ribs (14) that are the same width from the drum to their outer edges.

The Office Action does not raise any rejection of claim 12 and Stenberg et al. does not appear to disclose the features of claim 12.

Further, claim 20, recites "each of the strips comprise first and second abutment surfaces which limit longitudinal movement of the strips". Stenberg et al. fails to disclose this feature. Stenberg et al.'s ribs (14) are attached to the roll. There are no abutment surfaces that limit longitudinal movement of the strips as claimed in claim 20. The leading and trailing abutment surfaces recited in claims 18 and 19 also appear to be missing in Stenberg et al.

Allowed claim 24 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

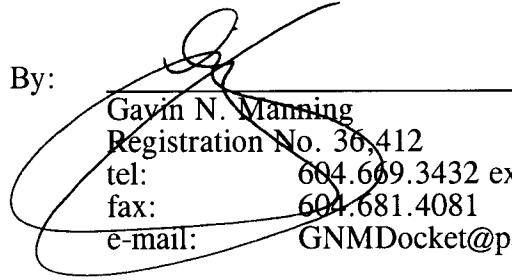
Therefore, all of pending claims 3 to 30 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

The Applicant submits that the foregoing amendments place this application in condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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